Sociology 105: Research Design and Sociological Methods
Fall 2019

INSTRUCTOR
Jill Bakehorn, PhD (Pronouns: she/her or they/them)
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Office: 479 Barrows Hall

Drop-in Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:15-11:15am
Sign-up Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30am
Sign-up: http://www.wejoinin.com/JillBakehorn

CLASS MEETING
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00-9:59am
101 Wurster

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is meant to be an introduction to methods and research design; it is specifically geared toward guiding students in the development of a sociological research project. We will be addressing some of the major concerns and issues related to sociological research including: the goals of sociological research, methodologies, developing a research topic and question, theoretical traditions, literature reviews, ethics, and reporting on research findings.

In this seminar you will begin the transition from being a consumer of sociological research, synthesizing others’ work, to a producer of sociological knowledge. This can seem like a particularly intimidating process, so we will break down the steps involved. The small size of the class means that we can spend class time discussing your questions and concerns about the research process. We will treat class time like a workshop for your individual projects. While lecture will be a component of class time, your active participation in the course is required.

You will produce an original research proposal that can be the starting place of your senior/honors thesis/scholarship research or a springboard for graduate school.

COURSE GOALS
By the end of the semester you should be able to:
• Explain the various goals and missions of sociological research
• Be conversant in the various methods and their attendant strengths and weaknesses
• Identify the major ethical issues involved in social research
• Use theory in research
• Conduct a literature review
• Compose a sociological research proposal

REQUIRED TEXTS
Course Reader: Available at Central Copy (2411 Telegraph Ave) and on bCourses.
ASSIGNMENTS

1) **Research Topic/Statement of Interest** (5% of final grade)
   1 page paper about research topic and purpose of research.
   **DUE: Friday, 9/13**

2) **Research Question** (5% of final grade)
   2 page paper detailing your research question or questions.
   **DUE: Friday, 10/4**

3) **Methods** (15% of final grade)
   3-5 page paper detailing what method(s) and research site or case.
   **DUE: Friday, 10/18**

4) **Ethical Issues** (5% of final grade)
   2 page paper addressing any ethical concerns you might encounter.
   **DUE: Friday, 11/1**

5) **Literature Review** (15% of final grade)
   4-6 page paper discussing relevant literature.
   **DUE: Friday, 11/15**

6) **Theoretical Frame** (5% of final grade)
   2 page paper discussing possible theories that may offer insight into your project.
   **DUE: Friday, 12/6**

7) **Final Research Proposal** (35% of final grade)
   15-20 page research proposal
   **DUE: Thursday, 12/19 at 10pm**

COURSE FORMAT AND POLICIES

**Readings:** Readings should be completed prior to class. You must keep up with the readings to participate in class discussions and complete assignments. Bring your reading materials to every class; you will likely need to refer to them in class discussions. All of your assigned readings are available on bCourses and as a reader from Copy Central on Telegraph.

**Participation:** This class will incorporate the use of lecture and group discussions. I expect you to be an active participant in the course. I expect you to come to each class meeting having completed the assigned readings for the day, outlined any questions or concerns you have, and ready to discuss. There will be in-class assignments as well. Participation will constitute **15% of your final grade. Attendance and participation are required.**
If you have a question about the readings, lecture, etc., please post your question to the chatroom or discussion board on bCourses where both your questions and my answers will be visible to other students. Feel free to answer each other’s questions as well.

**Course Slides:** I use course slides which often incorporate media. I will post course slides, but they will only contain the text. Keep in mind that these slides are meant to be a guide during lecture and are therefore not exhaustive or a substitute for attending class.

**Course Notes and Recordings:** Course notes should not be disseminated. That means you are forbidden from posting them online on forums like Course Hero. You must obtain permission from me to record lectures.

**Course Etiquette:** I expect you to be engaged and focused during class time. That means you should avoid distractions—the biggest is typically our phones. All phones must be silenced and put away during class.

You may not agree with everything we read and discuss, but I expect you to have an open mind and demonstrate your knowledge of the sociological perspective. Debates are expected and welcome in this class, however, I will not tolerate personal attacks.

**Laptop Policy:** I encourage you to consider taking notes without a computer if you are able.

**Email:** Clearly indicate to which course you are referring in your emails to me. I endeavor to respond to emails within 24 hours, but this is not always possible; please be patient.

**Names and Pronouns:** You have the right to be referred to by the name you prefer and the correct gender pronouns. Because the name listed in University records may not correspond to your preferred name, please inform me of your name (and pronunciation) and your pronouns so that I can ensure your are properly recognized and respected.

**GRADING POLICIES**

No late assignments will be accepted without prior approval.

**Turnitin:** All of your assignments will be checked by TurnItIn for plagiarism. Keep in mind, this program keeps a database of previously turned in papers as well.

Be sure to carefully consider assignment feedback; it is provided to help you improve on future assignments. For in-text feedback, click on the link “View Feedback” which may not be visible if you are not in full-screen mode.
ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The University defines academic misconduct as “any action or attempted action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other member or members of the academic community” (UC Berkeley Code of Student Conduct).

Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. Cheating is collaboration with other students on papers. Plagiarism includes turning in any work that is not your own as well as improper or missing citations of others’ works. As a student of the University of California, you are bound by the Code of Academic Conduct. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will result in a referral to The Center for Student Conduct and a zero for that assignment.

Plagiarism is most likely to occur because students are unaware of how to cite sources or because they feel desperate. If you get to this point in your writing, contact me ASAP rather than doing something you’ll very likely regret; we can work something out.

OFFICE HOURS

If you are having any difficulties with the material or assignments for the course or if you are having any personal problems that are affecting your ability to complete assignments on time, please take advantage of office hours—I am here to help! Just keep in mind that I will be much more amenable to granting extensions when I have been made aware of problems early on rather than at the last minute.

Remember that office hours are an important resource if for no other reason than getting to know your instructors could help you in the future when you may need letters of recommendation.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Disability Accommodations
If you qualify for any disability accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so you can receive the accommodations to which you are entitled. http://dsp.berkeley.edu

Student Learning Center
Provides support for writing, various academic disciplines including social sciences, as well as help for transfer and international students. http://slc.berkeley.edu

Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Services
To learn more about these issues, how to support survivors, or how to file a report and receive support services, start here: http://survivorsupport.berkeley.edu. Please note that I am not a confidential advocate. To speak to a confidential care advocate: http://sa.berkeley.edu/dean/confidential-care-advocate/
Economic, Food, and Housing Support
If you are in need of economic, food, or housing support, you can find help at basicneeds.berkeley.edu. You may be eligible for money to buy groceries via calfresh.berkeley.edu or our Food Assistance Program. If you are in need of food immediately, please visit our UC Berkeley Food Pantry at pantry.berkeley.edu/.

Course Outline: Readings to be completed on day listed. Schedule subject to change.

WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTIONS

Wednesday, 8/28 Introductions

Friday, 8/30 The Goals and Mission of Sociology


WEEK TWO: INTRODUCING SOCIAL RESEARCH

Monday, 9/2 LABOR DAY: NO CLASS

Wednesday, 9/4 Before Research: Sociology as a Profession


Assignment: Peruse latests program for the American Sociological Association here: https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/asa/asa19/

What research projects piqued your interest and why?
Friday, 9/6  Basics of Sociological Research: What is Social Research?


Monday, 9/9  Basics of Sociological Research: What are the Goals?


Suggested reading (Available on bCourses)

WEEKS THREE-FOUR: SOCIOLOGICAL METHODS

Wednesday, 9/11  Survey Research


Suggested reading for those interested in Surveys (Available on bCourses):
Friday, 9/13

Existing Data and Content Analysis

Research Topic Due


Suggested reading if interested in Available Data/Content Analysis (on bCourses):


Monday, 9/16

Qualitative Interviews


Suggested reading if interested in qualitative interviewing (on bCourses):

Wednesday, 9/18

Fieldwork


Suggested reading if interested in fieldwork (Available on bCourses):

Friday, 9/20

Catch-Up/Review
WEEK FIVE: RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Monday, 9/23  Asking a Research Question

Wednesday, 9/25  Matching Questions and Methods

Friday, 9/27  Case Selection/Sampling

WEEK SIX: RESEARCH ETHICS

Monday, 9/30  Ethics and Social Research

Wednesday, 10/2  What is Permissible in the Name of Knowledge?

If unfamiliar with Humphreys's research (Available on bCourses):

Friday, 10/4  Who Gets to Speak for Whom?

If unfamiliar with Goffman’s research (Available on bCourses):
WEEK SEVEN: THEORETICAL TRADITIONS

Monday, 10/7  Connecting Theory and Research


Wednesday, 10/9  Researching Within a Theoretical Tradition


Friday, 10/11  Researching Within a Theoretical Tradition


WEEK EIGHT: LITERATURE REVIEW

Monday, 10/14  Library Research

Meet at library

Wednesday, 10/16  What is a Literature Review?


Friday, 10/18  Constructing a Literature Review

Methods Paper Due

WEEK NINE: DATA ANALYSIS

Monday, 10/21  What Do I Do with this Data?

Wednesday, 10/23       Working with Concepts


Friday, 10/25          Analysis in Action


WEEK TEN: DATA AND THEORY

Monday, 10/28         Testing Theories with Data


Wednesday, 10/30      Advancing Theory with Data


Friday, 11/1           Catch-Up/Review

Ethical Issues Paper Due

WEEK ELEVEN: REPORTING ON YOUR RESEARCH/WRITING

Monday, 11/4          Academic Persona and Authority


Wednesday, 11/6  Academic Writing


Friday, 11/8  When the Press Report on Social Science Research (and get it wrong)


WEEK TWELVE: REFLECTIONS ON THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Monday, 11/11  VETERANS DAY: NO CLASS

Wednesday, 11/13  Reflecting on Who We are and What We Do in the Field


Friday, 11/15  When Our Research Affects Policy

**WEEKS THIRTEEN-FIFTEEN: INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS**

You must sign up to meet with me one-on-one to discuss your research proposal during class time.

**Monday, 11/18-Monday, 11/25**  Individual Meetings

**Wednesday, 11/27-Friday, 11/29**  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

**Monday, 12/2-Friday, 12/6**  Individual Meetings

**Theoretical Frame Due on 12/6**

**WEEK SIXTEEN: READING, REVIEW, RECITATION WEEK**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

**FINAL PAPER: Due THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 10PM**